

Resolution 19-329, CD1 Testimony

MISC. COM. 397

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:04 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Dyson Chee
Phone 8084627570
Email cheedyson@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha Chair Anderson and Honorable Council Members,

Written
Testimony

My name is Dyson Chee and I am an 18 year old newly graduated high schooler living in Ala Moana. On behalf of Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition, I am testifying in support of Resolution 19-329, which would create a youth commission for the City & County of Honolulu. As a youth myself, I would be very interested in participating in such a youth commission. There are many local issues that I am passionate about, ranging from the high cost of living to combating the climate crisis. The youth commission would be an opportunity for us to take youth civic engagement to the next level and for us youth to have meaningful and impactful real-life experience in the governmental process.

Mahalo for everything that you do for the people of O'ahu.

Sincerely,
Dyson

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement

1



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

July 8, 2020
10:00 AM

TO: Honolulu City Council

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of Resolution 19-329, Council Draft 1

Aloha Chair Ikaika Anderson, Vice Chair Ann Kobayashi, Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a Junior at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and currently serve as an Executive Committee Member of the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). Young Progressives Demanding Action advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. One of those values is that young people are our future and should be given the opportunities and the tools necessary to effectively participate in government, and influence policies that will impact their lives. YPDA is in **Strong Support of Resolution 19-329 CD1**, which would initiate amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 edition), as amended, Relating to the Creation of a Youth Commission.

YPDA actively supported the passage of Act 106 in 2018 by the Hawai'i State Legislature that established a Youth Commission in the Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services. We are in strong support of the creation of a Youth Commission for the City and County of Honolulu under the Managing Director. As an advisory commission made up of youth between 14-24 year old, young people, specifically members of Generation Z will actually be directly participating in the work of the City and County. Young people will be given the opportunity to express the policy priorities of their generation, and the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on matters referred to the Youth Commission by entities within the City and County.

This is an empowering way for young people to make their voices heard, and the responsibilities laid out in the charter amendment allows for a meaningful space for their thoughts and ideas to be heard. Creating an opportunity to take part in real world policy making on decisions that will impact our future in these islands. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed, issues such as how members of Generation Z and future generations will

face the brunt of climate change, bullying prevention, sex-trafficking, houslessness/cost of living which has resulted in young people leaving the islands to seek their future elsewhere, and the continued aging of our population and the role that Generation Z will play in being caretakers to their aging relatives. Bringing young people to the table allows for more voices to be heard and together with decision makers and the community, they would be able to help in finding new and innovative solutions to these issues. At the same time, members of the commission will be developing into leaders who are able to develop both experience and institutional knowledge on the workings of government, tools that will allow them to better serve their fellow peers.

We have some recommendations. In order for the Youth Commission to better represent the children and youth of Honolulu, we think that this commission should include underserved and disenfranchised communities such as Native Hawaiians and Micronesians. As suggested in the Community Alliance on Prisons testimony on Act 106, also making sure to include youth (male and female) who have been houseless, youth who have been justice-involved and youth who have been in the foster care system within the commission will be crucial. To better challenge apathy, implementation of the Youth Commission should also include ways for commission members to engage in outreach efforts. Reaching out to their communities for feedback (answering questions, shaping policy priorities) and sharing their personal experiences on how important it is to get involved. This commission has the potential to serve a powerful role in furthering civic engagement by giving their contemporaries, their friends, and family a sense of hope that they too can make a difference.

Young Progressives Demanding is in **Strong Support** of **Resolution 19-329 CD1**. We are very excited to see this pass!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
Executive Committee Member
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 6:05 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name	Emma
Phone	(808)333-8670
Email	emmareed2345@gmail.com
Meeting Date	07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?	No
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 6:07 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Lucy Fagan
Phone 8084621285
Email lucy.fagan@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha Chair Anderson and Council members,

My name is Lucy Fagan and I am a 16 year old highschooler from Kaimuki and I would like to voice my support for Resolution 19-329 that would let Oahu residents vote on creating a youth commission.

Written
Testimony

As youth we often don't get a seat at the table and a youth commission will help give us the opportunity for our voices to be heard. We will be the ones to inherit the island and be the future problem solvers so it is important we are involved in our democracy. By starting young and inviting youth in, it will develop a relationship sooner and help inspire future civic engagement which can help push Hawaii's voter turnout and representation. Hawaii has proved over and over again that we are forward looking and the youth commission will help reinforce that and ensure the decisions being made are ones the future people of the island are on board with.

Thank you for your commitment to the youth of Hawaii.

Testimony
Attachment
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and Agreement

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From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 6:08 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Amaya Hirata
Phone 8087857406
Email amaya.hirata@keaaau.k12.hi.us
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written
Testimony

Aloha Chair Anderson and Honorable Council Members,
My name is Amaya Hirata and I support Resolution 19-329. This resolution will help create an interest in politics for teenagers and young adults. As a teenager myself, I am very interested in politics and wished there were a way I and others could be more involved
Mahalo,
Amaya Hirata

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 6:08 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name	Echo
Phone	8087857407
Email	jellyjellybeanpurple@gmail.com
Meeting Date	07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing Organization	Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?	No
Written Testimony	I am Echo Hirata from the Big Island, I write in support of the bill Resolution 19-329. This bill will help the youth of our community be more engaged in the real political world and give great opportunities. Our future is ridding off our youth, we must give them such opportunities.
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 6:09 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Samantha
Phone 8087790220
Email steensam000@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha,

Written
Testimony

2020 is a year history will remember, but few will partake in writing. Hawaii has been hit with the opportunity to rebuild after this crisis, and youth voice is a necessary part of creating that better future. We were there a few years back with the styrofoam bill. Students flooded the capitol with eager testimony, myself included. Then came the sunscreen ban, a success that marked Oahu as a leader in the movement towards sustainability, not to mention our single use plastic ban just last year. We've been at the forefront, but cannot vote and cannot formally participate in the lawmaking process. We want more. We want a youth commission that can highlight our efforts and teach us how to be successful lawmakers, leaders, and communicators. We want a bigger part in helping our communities and writing our own futures. The youth commission will allow us to have a bigger say in the laws and regulations that will affect us. The commission will be a step towards more inclusivity and teach us how to be strong leaders.

Please make the youth commission a part of our future.

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement

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From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 2:15 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Cassidy Inamasu
Phone 808-428-3099
Email cassidy.inamasu@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

In 2015 the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through 2030, these "new Goals that will universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change."

Hawaii has work to do in each of the sustainable development goals and with the greatest population in the state, Honolulu has an obligation to address these areas to diversify our economy, remain culturally appropriate, decrease inequalities, and increase living standards. We can be an even more innovative and progressive leader in these areas - and it's clear we need to be.

Written
Testimony

Providing a opportunity like a City Youth Commission will not only connect and educate youth in civics, but allow for an unfiltered, fresh perspective to the challenges we face. Our youth will be the ones dealing with these challenges long beyond us, so why not engage them early on so they can be as informed, educated, confident, and inclusive as possible and be even more successful than we are.

If we're not doing things for the generations that follow us, then what are we doing it for? And if they are not provided the opportunity to learn through us now, then when and where? Having Honolulu Youth Commission is a no brainer.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:46 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Jasmine Padamada
Phone (808) 990-6995
Email jpadamada@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Council
Committee
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony If we want to have a society that embraces new ideas and moving forward, we need to encourage the youth to become involved in government and politics. Have them start early so that when they are old (and educated) enough, they will have the resources and knowledge required to effectively lead and represent our citizens.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:47 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Christina Andres
Phone 8083881981
Email andrescc@hawaii.edu
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony A Youth Commission would be a step in elevating youth voice in government, empowering younger generations to be more engaged in policy, providing youth perspective on community issues, and bridging gaps related to intergenerational discussions.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:32 AM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Jason Shon
Phone 808-753-9748
Email jasontmjks@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha,

My name is Jason Shon and I live in the Tantalus/Makiki area. I am writing to express my support of Resolution 19-329, which would create a youth commission for the City and County of Honolulu.

Written Testimony

I work for a non-profit global education organization that informs Hawaii's high school students about international issues and their local impacts. I interact with passionate and motivated young leaders from public, private, charter, and home schools across all our islands. Our young leaders care deeply about our government and are looking for ways to become more civically engaged. Recent successful, youth-led protests on climate and racial justice show that our youth care, are competent organizers, and want desperately to work for positive change in their communities.

The youth commission proposed in Resolution 19-329 would help to create a pipeline for civically-minded youth leaders to engage in the difficult issues we face. Please put this resolution on the 2020 ballot.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jason

Testimony Attachment

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:42 AM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Molly Mamaril
Phone 8082201171
Email mollymamaril@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha Honolulu City Council,

Written Testimony

I hope you are well. As a person in the millennial generation, I find it very important that youth voices are represented in the policy-making process. Therefore, I am writing in strong support of the Honolulu Youth Commission. I wish that I had had more opportunities in high school and college to learn and engage in public affairs, not only as a student, but as a working adult. It came as an abrupt awakening to not have the training or understanding of how to help my community (aside from voting). Please consider this as it will elevate youth voices and ideas in the political process.

Mahalo for your consideration.
Molly Mamaril

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Resolution 19-329

To the City Council,

I, Tina Huynh-Nguyen, am a citizen of the state of Hawai'i and reside in the district of Makiki. As an assignment for a college course, I attended the public hearing for SB522 held in Conference Room 325 at the State Capitol on March 14, 2019. SB522 is a senate bill that's focused on mitigating single plastic usage in Hawai'i's restaurant industry by removing all petroleum and polystyrene utensils, straws, food containers, and plastic bag products. I initially assumed that the audience would be filled with plastic using small restaurant businesses and hardcore environmentalist like the Sierra Club. However, in the mist of the chaos was a 17-year-old high school male.

His testimony left me speechless. This young man was able to take a stand for something he felt strongly about in front of a full room filled with "intimidating adults". I greatly admired this individual because he spoke with confidence for his generation. He supported the ban on single use plastics and his final statement was, "I want a plate lunch that doesn't affect my livelihood". This powerful scene left a mark on my spirit. It inspired me to do more as an active member of my community. It taught me to not be afraid of doing the right thing which is what I believe we all can learn from our youths. Therefore, I strongly support Resolution 19-329 because the City Council, Mayor, the state of Hawai'i will benefit from leveraging the voices of 15 outstanding youths.



July 6, 2020

RE: Strong Support for Resolution 19-329, Relating to the Creation of a Youth Commission

Aloha City Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 19-329, initiating amendments to the Revised Charter of the City & County of Honolulu to establish a youth commission.

Age-Friendly Honolulu is a City and County of Honolulu effort to create an accessible city that encourages community engagement, inclusion, and healthy aging. Supported by Bill 54 (2018) Relating to Age-Friendly Honolulu, the initiative has trained city departments on age-friendly strategies and helped them to establish age-friendly goals and standards. The initiative also engages the community through its age-friendly business program, Dementia Friends program, and work on disaster preparedness and food security issues.

We are also passionate about building strong intergenerational relationships and empowering youth to be more civically engaged by influencing policies and programs that they care about. This resolution is well-aligned with Age-Friendly Honolulu priorities to promote civic and community engagement across the generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 19-329.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Nishita".

Christy Nishita, Ph.D.
Gerontologist, UH Center on Aging
Coordinator, Age-Friendly Honolulu
www.agefriendlyhonolulu.com

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:47 PM
Subject: Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Cuong Tran
Phone 8082761334
Email cuonghtran97@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee ExecutiveMatters
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Time: 10:00 a.m.
Date: July 8, 2020
Where: City Council Chamber

Testimony by Kau'i Burgess
Director of Community & Government Relations

RE: Resolution 19-329 – Charter Amendment Relating to the Creation of a Youth Commission

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Anderson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kobayashi, a me nā Lālā o ka 'Aha o ke Kūlanakauhale a me ke Kalana o Honolulu, aloha!

We are writing in **support of Resolution 19-329**, which initiates amendments to the revised charter of the City & County of Honolulu to create a City Youth Commission.

Kamehameha Schools believes that increasing the civic engagement of our next generation is key to empowering a thriving Lāhui. Our beneficiaries have shown that they are eager and prepared to have a voice in the decisions and policies that guide our City. In fact, Tehani Malterre, a 2019 graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, ran for a seat on her Hawai'i Kai neighborhood board while she was still a senior in high school, and was elected just a few days after she received her diploma. Kamehameha Schools is proud to call her an alumnus and grateful to this Council for their celebration of her young leadership.

Unfortunately, young adults who are under the age of 18 currently have minimal opportunities to formally participate in the political process. Youth commissions have been established in other major cities across the country and have proven an effective means for incorporating the voice of our next generation in the policy decisions that impact them. Kamehameha Schools believes that a City Youth Commission will empower Honolulu's young adults to become local and global leaders. Therefore, we support adopting Resolution 19-329 to establish a City Youth Commission. We look forward to the opportunity to connect this Council with enthusiastic young candidates from our Kapālama campus, partner schools, and alumni network.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Please adopt this resolution.

Aloha members of the Honolulu City Council.

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of Resolution 19-329, which would allow the following question be placed on the 2020 General Election ballot:

"Shall the Revised City Charter be amended to establish a Youth Commission under the Managing Director?"

Hawaii has the lowest voter turnout for people my age (18-29) out of all 50 states; as pointed out in this Resolution. However, youth have been instrumental in addressing serious issues that affect themselves and the community as a whole. A serious problem that has arisen from our politics is that we discount the voices of a large portion of our community simply because of their age. The issues that affect youth, affect all of us.

It is vital that we encourage active participation in the political process by our youth. Having a voice means so much more when someone is listening, and by listening we can create meaningful, positive change. These young leaders, with the right amount of encouragement and support, can become lifelong participants in public policy, civic affairs and advocacy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Resolution 19-329.

Christopher Albritton

850-630-4355

calbritton@my.hpu.edu

Resolution 19-329

Support

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:09 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Wesley Oda
Phone 8082942499
Email manoayogi2017@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written
Testimony

I support the creation of a Youth Commission as we need to engage our youth in being responsible, participatory, and active future leaders. Because they are the next generation , what better way than to provide them with a voice and a chance to influence policies that will shape a city that they will inherit. I realize this places a great responsibility on our city council members to guide our youth - and I am confident that you're up to the task and agree that we must provide this kind of opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Wesley Oda, Manoa Resident

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:43 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name	Crystal Robello
Phone	8082928754
Email	crystal.robello@sharecare.com
Meeting Date	07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing Organization	Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?	No
Written Testimony	Youth have a big voice that should be heard. The youth think out of the box, have brilliant ideas, and collaborate amongst one another. Youth should be allowed to share their thoughts, ideas, and opinions just as adults do too.
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:04 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Perry Arrasmith
Phone (808)754-0364
Email perry.arrasmith@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

My name is Perry Arrasmith and I am a recent college and local public school graduate (Harvard College '20 and 'Aiea High School '16). I write this testimony to urge passage of Resolution 13-329. Passage of this resolution will put a question on the 2020 general election ballot for voters throughout the City & County of Honolulu to decide whether the Revised City Charter of the City & County of Honolulu should be amended to establish a Youth Commission under the purview of Honolulu's Managing Director.

Written Testimony As a 'younger' resident (21 years old) of O`ahu, I recognize that the island's future is my future. More than any other demographic group, I argue that O`ahu's youth will be most impacted by those decisions facing Honolulu County's leaders in the present-day. It is certain that many of us will call O`ahu home for the next half-century or more.

Municipal issues like transportation, infrastructure, and housing continue to adversely affect younger members of our island community. Honolulu needs institutional mechanisms in-place to balance the perspective of our island's youth alongside the community's greater well-being. As future or young voters and emerging leaders of our island community, our island's youth should be learning about the intricate nuances behind many of its decision-making processes.

More and more members of our island's youth are finding it difficult to live on O`ahu because of unattainable living standards. Some of my classmates who went off to school on the mainland (and stay there following graduation) joke that they'll return to Hawai`i following their retirement. To bridge a gap between city government and O`ahu's youth, an advisory commission of our island's youth is the step in the right direction. It is not an immediate solution to those larger problems of apathy or disenchantment, but it is a critical first step.

I sincerely wish I might have been able to appear before the Honolulu City Council in person to voice my strong support for passage of Resolution 13-329. This legislation has laid out the logistical framework required for the Youth Commission's existence under Honolulu's Managing Director. It will ensure balanced representation from across O`ahu. Furthermore, I believe it will only enhance the City's ability to consider our youth's perspectives in a deliberate and careful manner before proceeding with important decisions that will carry implications for decades to come.

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



July 4, 2020

RE: Strong Support for Resolution 19-329, Relating to the Creation of a Youth Commission

Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Honolulu City Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 19-329, initiating amendments to the Revised Charter of the City & County of Honolulu to establish a youth commission.

Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help transform our communities into healthier, happier places to live, work, and play. Beyond working to lower rates of obesity, tobacco use, and chronic disease, Blue Zones Project encourages volunteerism as a powerful way to live with purpose. Our work has also heavily focused on youth; strong partnerships with Youth Service America, local community groups and nonprofits (such as the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance), and over 150 schools has allowed us to help engage over 30,000 youth in volunteer service through strategic projects, capacity building, and funding opportunities.

Blue Zones Project is also passionate about empowering youth to be more civically engaged and use their voice to influence policies and programs that they care about. Just last year, we helped to launch the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, a diverse group of young leaders passionate about improving school meals, increasing agriculture education and school gardens, and building more sustainable food systems across our state.

According to the Do Good Institute, only 18.8% of Hawai'i youth ages 15-24 currently serve as volunteers, ranking us 45th in the country.¹ Hawai'i also has one of the worst young voter turnouts in the U.S.; in the 2012 general election, our state's youth turnout was 30%, substantially below the national average of 45%.² With a youth commission, Honolulu can work towards increasing youth volunteerism, growing young voter turnout, and authentically involving youth in decision-making that affects the interests of young people and their communities. A youth commission also compliments Bill 54 (2018) extremely well, as an age-friendly Honolulu must incorporate the ideas and feedback of our next generation. Many other cities, including Boston, Columbia, and Durham, have thriving youth commissions that actively elevate the voices of diverse, underrepresented youth and have seen substantial positive impact.³ Blue Zones Project, alongside many others, is committed to replicating this success in Honolulu, and therefore ask for your partnership in this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 19-329.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager
Blue Zones Project

¹ *Good Intentions Gap in Action: The challenge of translating youth's high interest in doing good into civic engagement.* 2018. Do Good Institute, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland.

² *Youth Civic Engagement.* Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Tufts University.

³ *Youth Involvement Task Force: 2018 Best Practices Report.* The United States Conference of Mayors.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:48 AM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Chloe Fagan
Phone 8083484489
Email chloe.fagan@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Dear Council Members,
My name is Chloe Fagan I am a first generation college student currently residing in California but grew up in Kaimuki. I would like to voice my support for the youth commission.

Written
Testimony

I think engaging with generation while we are young is crucial. As a young person it can often feel like we are not wanted or represented in our government and bringing in people my age can help that. While I am of voting age many other I know that are passionate are not. It is important that we get a voice in this crucial legislative process.

Thank you for your time, stay safe.

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement

1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:50 AM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Chloe Fagan
Phone 8083484489
Email chloe.fagan@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-08-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item resolution 19-329
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Dear Council Members,
My name is Chloe Fagan I am a first generation college student currently residing in California but grew up in Kaimuki. I would like to voice my support for the youth commission.

Written Testimony I think engaging with generation while we are young is crucial. As a young person it can often feel like we are not wanted or represented in our government and bringing in people my age can help that. While I am of voting age many other I know that are passionate are not. It is important that we get a voice in this crucial legislative process.

Thank you for your time, stay safe.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

July 7, 2020

RE: Strong Support for Resolution 19-329, Relating to the Creation of a Youth Commission

Aloha Chair Ikaika Anderson, Vice-Chair Ann Kobayashi, and members of the Honolulu City Council.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 19-329, initiating amendments to the Revised Charter of the City & County of Honolulu to establish a youth commission.

My name is Joseph Newmann. I am a Kamehameha Schools alumnus, a rising Junior at Seattle University, an Intern at Blue Zones Project Hawai'i, and a proud resident of Kailua, O'ahu.

Recent national events, particularly those surrounding the murder of George Floyd and the on-going Black Lives Matter Movement, have ignited a robust passion in younger generations to engage in civic leadership. Youth around the nation have taken to the streets and social media, engaging in advocacy campaigns, educational programs, and financial support systems in favor of achieving racial equity, specifically for African Americans. Notably, Nikkya Taliaferro, a rising senior at Moanalua High School and one of the co-organizers of Hawaii for Black Lives, recently stood in front of a crowd of thousands at the Hawai'i State Capitol to condemn police brutality and to advocate in favor of nation-wide racial equity on the systemic, cultural, and individual levels. While Nikkya serves as a powerful local example of youth civic leadership, Honolulu has been behind the curve in cultivating civic leadership opportunities for the general local youth population.

Unfortunately, youth under the age of 18 in Honolulu have had minimal opportunities to engage in formal civic leadership roles within their respective communities. The lack of the youth voice in Honolulu's civic realm reinforces the declining rate of youth civic engagement in recent years. According to the Hawai'i Community Foundation, only 39% of eligible voters participated in the 2018 general election compared to a national average of 50%. Hawai'i's voting rates have been consistently declining in recent years in relation to the rest of the U.S., especially amongst young people of voting age.¹

With the creation of a youth commission, Honolulu would join the ranks of major U.S. cities, including Boston, Columbia, and Dallas, who have created thriving youth commissions that have actively empowered diverse, under-represented youth to become civic leaders within their communities and have experienced significant, positive impacts. In Gresham, Oregon, the Gresham Youth Commission recently completed two mural projects, both celebrating diversity and unity in downtown Gresham, in collaboration with the Gresham Police Neighborhood Enforcement Team². I believe in the power of the youth committee to cultivate civic engagement amongst local youth and I ask for your support in this effort to empower the next generation of Hawai'i civic leaders.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 19-329.

Joseph Newmann

¹ *Government and Civic Engagement*, 2018. Hawai'i Community Foundation.

² *Youth Involvement Task Force: 2018 Best Practices Report*. 2018. The United States Conference of Mayors.

Aloha Chair and Council Members,

I am writing in strong support of Resolution 19-329 to form a Honolulu Youth Commission. We know the important issues addressed by our City Council affect our young people; yet our young people rarely have significant influence in the creation and implementation of policy. From the lack of affordable housing, to the rising cost of higher education and climate change, our youth are left out of the conversation. It is often said that, if you don't have a seat at the table, you are probably on the menu. The people who represent the future of the City and County of Honolulu should have a seat at the table.

This commission, composed of young voices, advising our Mayor and City Council, will foster civic engagement and empower the young people of Honolulu. Our Youth Commissioners will surely develop new and innovative solutions to our city's most challenging issues while gaining experience and institutional knowledge of the inner-workings of government.

At the State, we have worked hard to pass HB1716 (2018) to establish a Hawaii State Youth Commission. It has been a long journey, but 15 bright, motivated, dedicated commissioners were appointed to serve our state last month. Those commissioners, along with their Executive Director, are excited about the prospect of collaborating with their Honolulu Youth Commission counterparts to tackle the tough issues that affect us all.

Let's usher in a new era with fresh perspectives and bold solutions to build a brighter future for Honolulu and our state as a whole.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

Senator Stanley Chang
District 9